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[54] **CHARACTER ENCODER**
32 Claims, 25 Drawing Figs.

[52] U.S. Cl... 340/347,
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[51] Int. Cl.. H04l 3/00,
H03k 13/243, H03k 13/256

[50] Field of Search.. 340/347,
365, 174; 178/17 (D), 178 (C), 178 (A), 66 (A)

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ABSTRACT: A keyboard encoder comprises a set of keys. Each key is in juxtaposition with one or more field-responsive elements associated with that key, the outputs of the field-responsive elements being conveyed to output terminals of the encoder. Actuation of a key alters the field to which the elements associated therewith respond. The number of elements associated with each key and the connections of these elements to the output terminals correspond to the output code for the character represented by the key. Consequently, the responses of the field-responsive elements to actuation of a key provide a directly encoded representation of the corresponding character at the output terminals.